



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District



Joseph P. Medwick Park Restoration, Carteret, N.J.

Project Facts

The Joseph P. Medwick Park in Carteret, New Jersey has been selected for restoration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to compensate for the unavoidable, potential shallow water impacts resulting from the deepening of the Arthur Kill Channel in the New York/New Jersey Harbor. The Corps, along with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, are deepening key shipping channels in the Harbor to ensure safe and efficient navigation. In addition to ensuring a safe, efficient Port, the Corps is working to maintain a healthy, diverse and sustainable environment through the creation, enhancement and restoration of aquatic, wetland and upland habitat.

The area of Medwick Park that is being restored by the Corps and the Port Authority, in partnership with Middlesex County, N.J. Department of Parks and Recreation, consists of approximately 14 acres of tidal wetlands located in the northern portion of the park along the southern shore of the Rahway River. The tidal wetland is currently dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*), with isolated remnant areas of saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and salt hay (*Spartina patens*), all of which are found along the tidal creeks leading to the river. After clearing, excavating and grading the site, the phragmites will be removed and replaced by native wetland species. Once tidal inundation to the area has been reestablished, water and sediment quality will be improved, promoting the return of native fish and wildlife.

On Sept. 29, 2005, the Corps awarded a \$3.3 million contract to the Dawson Corporation of Clarksburg, NJ.

To date the contractor has removed and disposed of about 30,000 cubic yards of marsh soils. Approximately 172,000 plugs have been planted in the marsh. Additional maritime shrub plantings were placed in October. An observation deck will be installed before the project is over.

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Updated 3 Nov 06